

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are presently pending in the application.

Claims 15, 19, and 33 have been amended for clarification purposes and to avoid ambiguity.

On page 3 of the office action the examiner states that claim 1 of the present application is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Alcorn (US 6,106,396). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The examiner states that Alcorn, column 2, lines 52-64, teaches combining object signatures to generate a gaming application signature. However, Column 2, lines 52-63 of Alcorn state:

...In the game data set preparation phase, the method proceeds by providing a data set for a casino game, computing a first abbreviated bit string unique to the casino game data set, encrypting the first abbreviated bit string to provide an encrypted signature of the casino game data set, and storing the casino game data set and the signature in a mass storage device. The first abbreviated bit string is preferably computed using a hash function to produce a message digest of the casino game data set. The signature is then encrypted from the message digest. After storage of the game data set and unique signature, this information is installed in a casino game console....

It is clear from this teaching that Alcorn teaches a technique of generating a single message digest (representing casino game data) which is then encrypted to form a single signature representing the casino game data. Such an interpretation is supported by Alcorn's lack of use of any plurals when referring to the message digest and/or the signature. Additionally, this interpretation is further supported by the description in column 7, lines 53-65 of Alcorn which state:

FIG. 4 illustrates the manner in which an encrypted data set signature 37 is generated. A loadable casino game data set 36 is processed using a hash function 41 to generate a message digest 42 which is unique to the loadable game data set 36. The hash function employed may be one of a number of known hash functions, such as the MD2, MD4, and MD5 hash functions and the SHS hash function;

or any other suitable hash function capable of producing a unique abbreviated bit string from a variable size input data set...After generation, the message digest 42 is then encrypted with an encryption algorithm 43 using a private encryption key 44 to generate a signature 37 of the message digest.

Again, it is clear from this teaching that Alcorn teaches a technique of generating a single message digest (representing casino game data) which is then encrypted to form a single signature representing the casino game data. There is no teaching or suggestion in Alcorn for generating multiple object signatures and combining the object signatures to generate a gaming application signature.

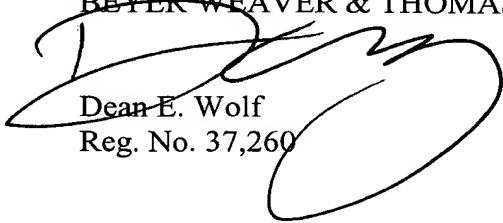
In contrast, claim 1 defines the features of: retrieving a subset of a plurality of gaming application objects; generating an object signature for each of the retrieved gaming application objects; and combining the object signatures to generate the gaming application signature. Because this combination of features is neither taught nor suggested in Alcorn, it is submitted that claim 1 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Alcorn.

Independent claim 19 define features similar to those defined in claim 1, and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least those reasons stated above in support of claim 1. Additionally, dependent claims 2-18, and 20-41 are also believed to be allowable since they depend upon independent claims 1 and 19 respectively.

Because claims 1-41 are believed to be allowable in their present form, many of the examiner's rejections in the Office Action have not been addressed in this response. However, applicant respectfully reserves the right to respond to one or more of the examiner's rejections in subsequent amendments should conditions arise warranting such responses.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable. Per an agreement by telephone between the undersigned attorney and the examiner (and SPE Moise), if the examiner disagrees with or needs clarification about any portion of this response, applicant respectfully requests the examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney before issuing a new office action.

Respectfully submitted,
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